

Applicants disagree. The claims, as amended, are drawn to anti-neuropilin-1 *monoclonal* antibodies, or antigen binding fragments thereof, that specifically bind to *cell surface* neuropilin-1 without inhibiting the binding of VEGF165 to neuropilin-1. Soker fails to teach or suggest any monoclonal antibodies, let alone monoclonal antibodies that bind to cell surface neuropilin-1 without inhibiting the binding of VEGF165 to neuropilin-1, as required by the amended claims.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that the claims are novel over Soker, and respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

### **CONCLUSION**

Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in condition for allowance. If a telephone conversation with Applicants' Attorney would expedite the prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is urged to call Applicants' Attorney at (617) 227-7400.

Applicants believe that no fee is due for this Amendment and Response. If another fee is occasioned, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 12-0080, under Order No. MXI-352US.

Dated: January 28, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

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